

No, you didn't miss an issue. I did. Details regarding the US-Aussie Challenge were changing so rapidly, it was virtually impossible to send out an accurate issue in May. My apologies for the gap in information and a promise to make it up with more of the stuff you're after...boomerang plans, technical tips, and news you can use in your everyday throwing! So much news this issue I had to save some for later, even with the expanded number of pages. I hope alot of you can join us here in Delaware for the Free Throwers' Fling on August 18. Each year we learn a little more and work to improve the tourney to allow more throwing for all. Let me hear what you're doing this summer as well. Good tossing!

Calendar

August 4 Amherst, MA Larry Ruhf hosts his annual tournament, billed as a true "thrower's tournament". Records fall at this event and the list of participants reads like a "who's who". Call Larry at 413-323-4340 for details.

August 18 Delaware, OH The 5th Annual Free Throwers' Fling. This promises to be a new approach to perhaps the largest regional fling in the U.S. Last year 50 competitors came. See article in this issue for details. Call 614-363-4414 for details.

Sept. 15, 16 The 4th Annual International Boomerang Days at Chamarande, France. Formerly held at Bievres, the finest European tournament has been moved to a 17th century castle at Chamarande. Details in last issue, or call me for info. if you're going!

LANDS' END BOOMERANG CUP

June 2nd, Washington DC. Hurricane season was underway according to the network news. And so it was. Twenty to thirty mile per hour winds assaulted the Polo field near the Lincoln memorial as six men from each country prepared not so much to defend honor as to save face in light of the high winds. The Cordozza High Marching Band strutted through the opening ceremonies and the teams took the field.

Fast catch was up first. The idea was to take 5 catches in the minimum amount of time without dropping more than once. Only Dennis Maxwell and Larry Ruhf managed to grasp the concept and the 5 catches without two drops. Score: U.S.-12, Australia-11.



The Team Relay saw Australia set a precedent it would never yield during the test series in this event. They won. The winds had everyone making errant throws, but the Aussies made fewer in this foot race to win the event by 0.2 points!

Nursing an eight tenths of a point lead, the U.S. went into the Aussie Round like sheep to the slaughter. Chet Snouffer found the handle in winning the event but it wasn't enough as the Aussies, led by Peter Maxwell, Mark Schafer, and Robbie Croll made some spectacular catches to defeat the U.S. 73.5 to 43.5.

Accuracy was a turnaround as the U.S. fought back to take the Aussies 41.5 to 36.5. It was a minor coup, but a major turning point.

Down by 25 points going into the final event, the Americans queried Captain John Mauro. "Can we win it??" "What must we do to pull it out?" John's response, "You can do it but you must take 1st through 4th place to win." "Yeh, Right..." The plague of missed catches which haunted the U.S. in the Aussie Round descended upon the Australian team as misses and fatal drops allowed the U.S. to take 1st through 4th and come from behind to win 216.4 to 212.6 overall. It was a spectacular recovery. However, from the start both teams realized that more than U.S. vs Australia on this day, it was boomerang throwers against the wind. The real tests were yet to come in the minds of many.

June 6 - Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

Light winds, thermals, and sunny hot skies had everyone excited for the day's events on June 6 in Bethlehem, PA. Eric Darnell and John Flynn smelled blood from the start anticipating fast catch under the light winds. MTA looked promising under ideal conditions. Our strong events looked ready to roll and victory in the Relay and Accuracy could ensure a battle in the Australian Round that even in the face of an Aussie victory there, would not stop the U.S. from a one-two sweep here at home. It was not to be.

True to the script for these winds, the Americans shot out in front in Fast Catch, led by Darnell and Flynn who were sheer seconds from the record mark. MTA saw Barnaby Ruhe and Mike Forrester hit the mark for 1st and 2nd, with Flynn hauling in 4th. The Aussies were led by Robbie Croll, who snagged third in both events. However, the score after two was 90 to 66 in favor of the U.S.

The tide began to change in Team Relay as again, the Aussies made fewer drops to save time and pick up 3 points on the large lead. Accuracy gave the master a chance to show how the event should be done as Dennis Maxwell led the men from Down Under to another two point victory. Dennis was a thrill to watch as he actually tossed one out and turned his back on it, looking skyward as the -rang swung around, into his field of vision, and dropped into the center circles! "I knew it was a good one", he would later admit!

The Americans were sitting on an 18 point lead heading into the final event-Australian Round. How prophetic. Only John Flynn would find the mark for the Americans as the Aussies took first and second, tied for third, and won fourth in a rout that brought them back for a 12 point victory on the day, 220.65 to 208.35. Bob Burwell paced the Aussies in the final event, followed by Bunny Read, Peter Maxwell, and father, Dennis.

Perhaps the highlight of the day was the reaction by both sides on announcement of the final score. There were tears of joy from the Australians, and cheers and congratulatory hugs from the Americans. It was as if a victory had been scored by both sides...and it had. A victory for the sport. "This is the most pleasant assignment I've ever had", said a reporter from Philadelphia. "I've never seen a sport where the teams in contention are so friendly with each other." If one

were to choreograph the test series in advance for optimal excitement and competition, they could have done no better. It was on to Delaware.

June 10 - Pennsylvania Ave. Field, Delaware, OH

The swamp weather would carry on into Delaware for the USBA Nat's and the test series finals. Both teams were tentative on Saturday, opting to hold back from individual performances in favor of a strong team showing on Sunday. Dennis Maxwell, team captain and President of the BAA was so relaxed, he actually won the Nationals in spite of himself! Signs of a natural!!

Sunday was hot and featured a temperamental breeze that wavered from tolerable to "a bit much", according to England's Dave Schummy. The U.S. won Fast Catch to make a sweep of the series in the event with Larry Ruhf setting the pace. It was 42 to 36 after one event.

MTA would be a major psychological blow to the U.S. as a 2-0 history in their favor and the confidence that "we had the technology" would be surpassed by sound strategy and solid performances from the Australian team. Five of the six Aussies would make a catch in the first round. The times: 8 seconds, 9. Maybe a 12 second effort. Not too intimidating. Peter Ruhf popped a spectacular first effort with great hang time. 15, 20, 25 seconds and still drifting ever so close to the tree line in the distance. Peter was there as the -rang slipped over the trees and out of reach. No score. Fully half of the U.S. Team would fail to make a catch in the variable winds, while the Aussies hit a few longer flights with their 2nd and 3rd "freebie" attempts. 46 to 32, Australia. A n 8 point lead to the visitors after two events.

The relay was a melee as the Americans grounded out and failed to catch numerous boomerangs. They beat us by more than a minute to win 42.9-35.1.

About this time the media was asking Dennis Maxwell about the lead the Australians held. "This game is wide open and we're not letting up", reported the captain. "They're not going to hand it to us on a platter and we don't expect them to." We'd see the report that night on television. It would be too late. It wouldn't have mattered anyway.

The U.S. pulled closer in Accuracy, losing by 3 points. Trailing by 19 points, the U.S. was down but not out. We'd come back from farther in the first test. The Aussies had pulled it out in Pennsylvania. It was anybody's game. But this wasn't MTA or Fast Catch. It was the Australian Round. Poetic justice was looming on the horizon. After routing the Aussies on their own turf in 1981, the writing was on the wall for a turn of the tables.

The Aussie split first among Dennis, and Rob Croll. Chet snagged second, but it was Aussie from there on. The intensity was lacking. The catches fell. Solid performances across the board would spell ultimate victory for the Australians. 74.25 to 42.75 for the event. 239.65 to 189.35. The cup was heading to the land of Vegemite, Waltzing Matilda, and the Southern Cross.

Overall consistency was the key to Australia's victory in the test series. "We were hot or cold", said U.S. Captain John Mauro after analyzing the statistics. "It looked like 6 guys taking on a team", said one interested fan after the final match. After the Pennsylvania test match, with the score even at one to one, I asked European champion, David Schummy, his impressions of the match up. "They have wisdom on their side and strong leadership from Bob, Bunny and Dennis. They hold the team together", he remarked of the guests from the Southern Hemisphere. "You guys weren't up to par", Rob Croll extended after all was said and done. Overall strength, team strategy and desire were the factors determining the difference more than skill level of the two teams. It was what each team did with what it had that determined the winners on the day.

So that's the way it went in round two of this great challenge match. Though winning and losing play a role in any sporting endeavor, the real victory, as mentioned before, was for the sport. Good exposure, great friendships, lots of fun and the exchange of ideas and boomerang information will mark this tour in the minds of the participants. "As long as we're friends when it's over", said Bunny Read before the dust would settle.

"No worries, mate!" Yeh, "she'll be right..."

USBA Results

Sunny skies and temperatures in the upper 80's marked the USBA Nationals on June 9 here in Delaware, OH. The winds were 7-10 knots and sometimes erratic, making top performances difficult. Contestants were scrapping for the right -rang for the conditions at times rather than going with their best booms for the event, especially in Fast Catch and MTA. Following are the box score results for individual placings, with scores and interesting side notes where applicable.

NOVICE:

SUICIDE

1. Paul Pfahler (Delaware, OH)
2. JJ Gerken (Toledo, OH)
3. Jason Kennedy (Toledo)
4. Jim Gasser (Toledo)
5. Dave Saba (Toledo)

FAST CATCH

1. Jason Kennedy
2. Aaron Breighner
3. Dave Saba
4. Jim Gasser

ACCURACY

1. Brooke Emler (Delaware, OH, the leading female thrower on the day!)
2. Jason Kennedy
3. Steve Swartz
4. Cliff Calaser
5. Paul Pfahler

AUSSIE ROUND

1. Steve Swartz
2. Dave Saba
3. Paul Pfahler
4. tie: Jim Gasser
Bob Gasser
5. JJ Gerken

ALL AROUND (Overall scorer)

1. tie: Paul Pfahler
Jason Kennedy
2. Dave Saba
3. Jim Gasser

Ted Bailey's bunch from Toledo continued the ir winning ways established at last year's Free Throwers' Fling as they practically swept the Novice category. Brooke Emler became the only girl to place in any of the events, Novice or Advanced, by winning Accuracy. Her first round score of 15 points would have placed her in 3rd place against the Advanced throwers, which included both U.S. and Australian teams and the grand master himself, Carl Naylor, who won Advanced with 17 points. Good throwing, Brooke! Brooke is eleven years old.

All sights are now set on the August Free Throwers' Fling when Toledo's terrorists of the bullseye are expected to toss sticks against the advanced boom chuckers! Enough is enough!

ADVANCED:

SUICIDE

1. Rick Tilford, Delaware, OH
2. Dennis Joyce, Newport News, VA
3. Gary Broadbent, Cleveland
4. Mark Schafer, Victoria, Australia
5. Rob Croll, Vic. Australia

DOUBLING

1. Dennis Maxwell, Vic., Aus
2. Bunny Read, Vic., Australia
3. Chet Snouffer, Delaware Q
4. Mark Schafer
5. Larry Ruhf, MA

Rick Tilford made the behind the back catch to win Suicide, with Gary and Dennis in a throw off for 2nd, and Australia's Croll and Schafer tossing for 4th in an exciting, somewhat windswept round of competition. The Aussies shared their Rod Jones Doubler's (see "Design of the Month") to good advantage as they swept the Doubling event. U.S. teammates Chet and Larry repeated their efforts from PA where they went 1, 2 in this event.

ACCURACY

- 17 pts. 1. Carl Naylor, Brooklyn
16 " 2. Dave Boehm, Cleveland
14 " 3. tie: Gregg Snouffer, Delaware
Bob Burwell, Australia
13 " 4. Larry Ruhf, 13 points
12 " 5. tie: Barnaby Ruhe and Tom Evans:

MTA

1. Mike Forrester 21.20 sec.
2. Dennis Maxwell 19.78
3. Mickey Kinley, 18.18
4. Gregg Snouffer, 17.53
5. Stuart Jones 17.40 sec.

FAST CATCH

1. Chet Snouffer, 43.76 seconds
2. Gregg Snouffer, 53.08
3. Dennis Maxwell 56.88
4. Barnaby Ruhe 59.85
5. Rick Tilford, 111.35 seconds.

AUSSIE ROUND

1. Paul Sprague
2. Bob Burwell
3. Chet Snouffer
4. Gary Broadbent
5. Bunny Read

OVERALL POINTS (Allaround)

1. Dennis Maxwell (12)
2. Chet Snouffer (11)
3. Gregg Snouffer (9)

Many readers have written with the suggestion that knowing who won is not nearly so helpful to them as knowing, "What were they throwing?" I made notes on some of the "hardware" being tossed out there and include it for your information. Apologies for those I missed.

In MTA, Forrester led off with one of his handcrafted MTA designs. You should note that he set a new world record at Lehigh University's Regional Fling with a 50.60 second throw! Dennis used an Aussie MTA, Mickey Kinley heaved one of his own "Boomalums" of alloy aluminum, and Gregg Snouffer tossed a Rick Tilford MTA based upon the Bretfeld design we've covered in recent issues.

Fast Catch saw Chet Snouffer utilize John Flynn's "dead duck" boom, handcrafted by John from an apple tree. It has so much drag that it absolutely dies spinning on return. Gregg used a "Seabreeze III" while Dennis and Barnaby used booms of their own design. Barnaby actually used small drag flaps of steel tape to kill spin on his stick... a practice picked up by many of the U.S. team during the tour and instigated by that Wizard, Eric Darnell.

Aussie Round was won by Chicago student Paul Sprague using an unidentified boomerang! Bob Burwell threw one of his own larger "Lazy 7's" and Chet threw an Australian "Binghi" Boomerang manufactured by Peter Byham.

Regional Results

Two days of ideal winds and hot temperatures under a scorching sun highlighted the regional tournament and second test match between the U.S. and Australia. Here are the results for the Regional fling held at Lehigh University.

SUICIDE

1. Bill Springer
2. David Schummy (England)
3. Chet Snouffer
4. tie: Burwell and Bunny Read

FAST CATCH

1. Mike Forrester 25.45 secs.
2. Don Goss 34.15
3. Al Gerhards 34.16
4. Dennis Maxwell 36.01
5. Larry Ruhf 38.23

DISTANCE

1. tie Gerhards/Burwell: 95.5 meters
3. David Schummy 92.0 meters
4. John Flynn 91 meters
5. tie: Doug Dufresne and
Peter Ruhf both under 91 meters

OVERALL

1. Chet Snouffer
2. Mike Forrester
3. Larry Ruhf

DOUBLING

1. Chet Snouffer
2. Larry Ruhf
3. Rob Croll
4. John Flynn
5. Eric Darnell

MTA

1. Mike Forrester 50.6: New record
2. Larry Ruhf 28.86
3. Peter Ruhf 28.43
4. Bob Burwell 25.01
5. Rob Croll 22.86

AUSSIE ROUND

1. Chet Snouffer 67 pts.
2. Jerry Caplan 61
3. Charles Paglee 59
4. tie: John Flynn and
Peter Ruhf with 55 pts.

8.18.84 FREE THROWER'S ANNUAL FLING

This year's Free Throwers' Fling will feature 7 events with a few new twists. MTA, Juggling, Fast Catch, Doubling, and Aussie Round will run true to form according to USBA standards. Consecutive catch will be run according to our game, "RANGS" with the object being to be the first to earn all 5 letters by making two handed, one handed, other handed, two handed behind the back, and one handed behind the back catches. No one is eliminated for a drop, but you definitely fall behind if you miss! We figure you're here to throw boomerangs, not watch others because you're "out".

Freestyle Challenge will be on the menu with everyone in and a catch designated by the "leader". He or she must name the catch and then make it. If successful, everyone goes for it. This is referred to as putting your money where your mouth is. A new leader calls the shot each throw. It's just for fun so we did not even try to figure out how you win! We'll also give you a minute to get out there and strut your best stuff by cutting loose. Applause and appreciation determine the favorite for this event. "Hmm. I'll give him a 75..good beat, but I can't dance with him."

Team relay will be a rush as teams will be divided at random at the start of the event. No stacking the deck here. Further, we're going to get 5

identical boomerangs donated by a manufacturer. Teams will select a -rang and everyone will throw it. A good test of the thrower and a good plug for the supplier. Everyone will be throwing your boom and if they like it, they'll know just where to get one, right?! We're looking for a donor for this event. Interested? Drop us a line.

There will be novice and advanced categories and the events will run during the best part of the day for booming...evening! Open throwing all afternoon with official events cranking up at 4:00 PM. til 8:00 PM. Hot coals will be provided and lots of filler foods and drink for everyone. All you need is something to slap on the grill and you're in for a great evening of food, fun, friendship, and full circle flight!! You can camp or crash at any number of local sites listed below. Plan now to attend this premier event. Boom party site to be announced at the Fling. Night flights?? You bet. Let us know if you plan to come!! There is no registration fee-not for a FREE Throwers' event!

Last issue had map and directions to Delaware, or you can call or write for details...614-363-4414.

Workshop #5

The 5th Annual Free Throwers' Boomerang Workshop was held May 26 under sunny, breezy skies here in Delaware. Forty registrants paid \$5.00 for materials and began rasping away under the watchful eyes of local Free Throwers. H.L. Mayhew contributed a bountiful supply of wood rasps to the effort, and head counts revealed fully 75 participants took part in the construction and/or throwing of the wooden -rangs.

Coast to Coast Hardware and Wham-o joined forces to donate a dozen Wham-o-rangs to the workshop. Participants were taught to throw the new three bladed boomerangs which were then raffled off by drawing to the registrants.

Test flying and open throwing followed the workshop with adjustments made until every boomerang was a full blooded returner! As always, alot of fun and many new sport enthusiasts came out of the day's activities.

Our thanks to George Sappenfield of Wham-o and Ali Miller of the USBF for selecting our workshop as a test site for the new three blader, and to Mark Pansing, Dave Emler and Maureen Clark for their "flight school" assistance.



Participants in this year's workshop were given full sized boomerang plans from the "Leading Edge". These plans include full scale drawings of my favorite traditional shaped boomerang and my "Seabreeze II", a versatile omega shaped freestyler and my leading seller. Inspired by Herb Smith's pattern sheets, ours also includes complete written instructions for constructing the boomerangs, plus wood sources, sources for further information, and details on the Free Throwers' Society.

If you're new in the sport or into constructing your own boomerangs, this is a great start! A limited number of extras are available for \$1.00 postage paid. Write the "Leading Edge" today.

Boomerangs, etc.

Looking for some new booms? The "Leading Edge" lists reputable boomerang manufacturers as a reader service. If you are a boomerang builder and would like to be listed, send samples and price lists to the "Leading Edge". Sources will be listed on a rotating basis to keep our readers up on a wide range of boomerangs.

Here are several new names with a few familiar makers to broaden your selection of top quality boomerangs.

Turning Point Boomerangs by Eric Darnell, Star Route, S. Strafford, VT 05070.

Birch ply and polypropylene boomerangs in the \$15-\$20 range.

Binghi Boomerangs, 9 Gunnamara Street, Barooga, NSW, Australia.

Plywood booms for sport and competition and natural timber boomerangs and hunting sticks. Binghi's have won several recent titles in Aussie competitions and come highly recommended.

Mickey Kinley, 264 NW 7 Court, Boca Raton, FL 33432.

Boomalum hook for \$25 and hardwood laminate booms \$30 and \$35.

Leading Edge Boomerangs by Chet Snouffer 340 Troy Rd, Delaware, OH 43015

plywood booms for sport and competition from \$8 to \$15. These booms have been winning U.S. titles since 1979.

Kangerang Boomerangs by Dennis Cox, PO Box 4937, Vancouver, WA 98662.

Brand new on the market, these plywood boomerangs come in 7 styles.

Flying Eagle Boomerangs by Rus-Art, PO Box 187, Agawam, MA 01001.

The widest variety we've seen from a private maker, these -rangs come at least 12 different styles! \$8-\$16 range.

Next issue, booms from Peter Ruhf, John Flynn, George Reitbauer, and more...

ACCESSORIES...

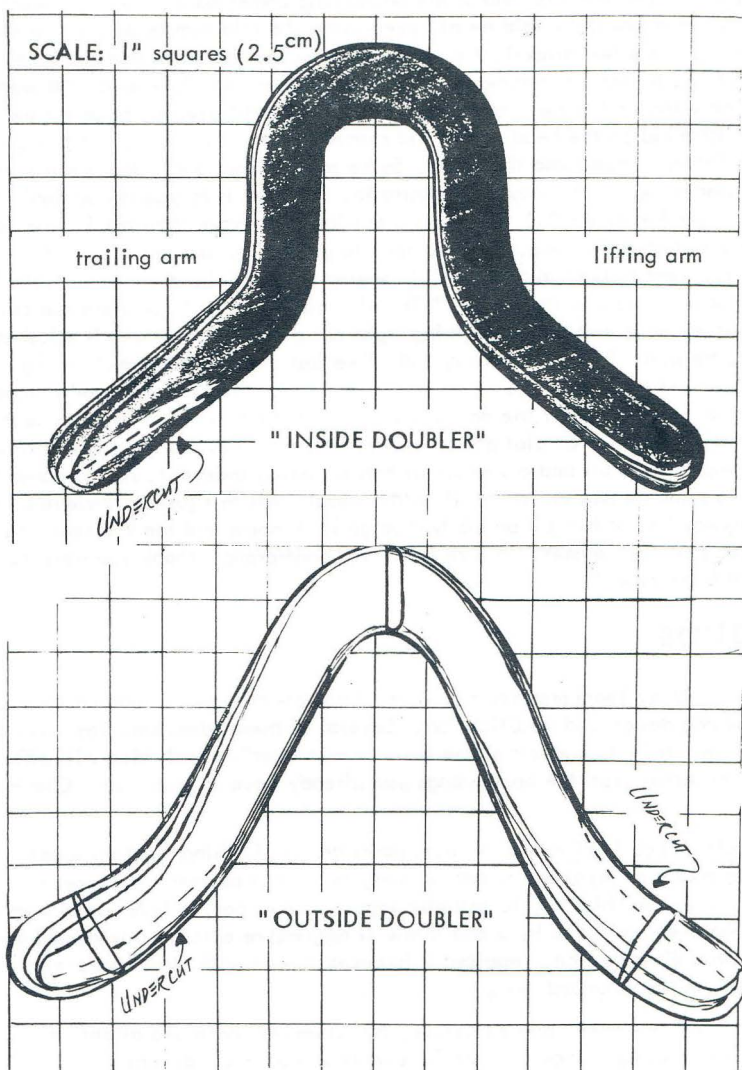
The "Bag Man", 13050 Fir Dr., Sonoma, CA 95370 has written that he now offers a boomerang bag with 3 compartments (28", 16" and 12" long; all 12" deep and 4" wide) of heavy duty canvas duck. Comes with shoulder strap, 3 inside pockets with velcro closures. Room for 30-50 booms. Price is \$35 ppd. Says he'll trade for equal value of quality booms. I've not seen this item yet so no recommendation pro or con but it sounds like he's on track!!

WINDSOCKS...long a standard item on the local field, windsocks are becoming more popular among boomerangers for detecting wind direction and lending a colorful aero ambience to the throwing arena (is he serious??) The Free Throwers' handcraft windsocks and carry professional lines as well. Write for details.

Aussie Doubles

Australia's Rod Jones was unable to make the trip to the U.S., but his expertise was made known through these and other top flight competitive boomerangs which the Aussies wielded against their foes. It was a Rod Jones pair of "jugglers" that led Bob Burwell to the U.S. Title in '82, and his "doublers" that won the title this year.

Generous undercutting is done on the leading edges of the lifting and trailing arm of the "Outsider", while undercutting is done primarily to the L.E. of the TRAILING arm only on the "Insider". This keeps it low and tight on return, while the "Outsider" hovers in for the catch. Hold the -rangs with the "Outsider" against your palm by it's trailing (or dingle) arm. The "Insider" is grasped by the lifting arm. The throw is straight out and fairly vertical. An excellent pair of wind doublers!



Bedtime Boom Tales

O.K. Kids. This evening's story comes fresh from the Bulletin of the Boomerang Association of Australia No. 38. Editor Peter Jonson is interviewing colorful Duncan MacLennan, founder of the Sydney Boomerang School and long time boomerang promoter. This excerpt reprinted with consent and features a classic MacLennan yarn...

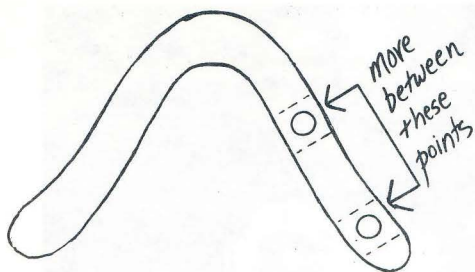
I sold a superb black wattle boomerang (made by Joe Timbery) to an American pilot about 20 years ago. About 6 months later this American came back and said he had a story to tell me about this boomerang I'd sold him. He said, "I took that boomerang home to my beach house in California." He put the boomerang over his bar and all his friends came over one day and they saw the boomerang and said, "Those boomerangs from Australia don't fly. It's just a confidence trick." So he said to his friends, "You buy the beer if the boomerang comes back." So they went down to the beach to throw it—he said he did everything I'd told him to do (but he did confess to having had a few drinks). He said, "I watched the wind and turned 45 degrees to the right and let the boomerang go." "Well goodness me," he said. "It went right out over the water and turned around and came back right over my head behind me and hit a little kid on the head." The kid started to cry and said he was going home to tell his father to come and thump me. So he said, "Look kid, don't tell your dad. This is a boomerang all the way from Australia. I'll give it to you if you don't tell your dad." The kid said, "O.K." They went inside to have their drinks and realized it was such a good boomerang. They decided to go and try and get it back from the kid. The guy went to the kid and said, "Seeing I got this boomerang in Australia, do you mind if I have one last throw." The kid said, "O.K." So I put the curved side against my palm and threw the thing right out over the water and it splashed into the water. He said, "Gee, I'm sorry kid. I've lost your boomerang." So I gave the kid a quarter and told him to go buy a soda. As soon as the kid had gone he took off his clothes and went in after the boomerang and put it between his teeth to swim back. Consequently he swallowed alot of salt water. When he reached the beach his undies were hanging down a bit and a woman hit him for being indecent. And because he'd had a bit to drink he was violently ill on the beach. All this just to retrieve a boomerang. Anyway he got himself on his feet to go back home and the kid came back and said, "Good on you, mister, you've found my boomerang, thank you very much. I'll take it home now."

Wingtips

U.S. Team member Eric Darnell has always been a leading innovator in boomerang design and modification. Several of these ideas stem from him directly and others are the products of the team "brain trust". Each idea will offer you further versatility with the boomerangs you already have in your bag. Check them out!...

STAINLESS STEEL TAPE available from hardware or plumbing/heating supply stores is a super means of repairing or adding weights to your boomerang. Super stick and super strong, it enables you to actually repair on the spot, a boomerang that has been completely shattered by a bad throw or aggressive catch. I destroyed my inside doubler on a diving catch, repaired it between throws with steel tape, and went on to place with the wounded -rang.

The next topic has been covered before, but deserves continued attention. The subject it weighting -rangs for specific events and wind conditions.



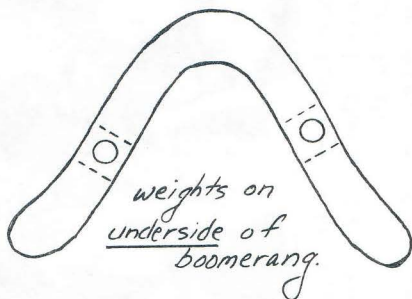
Situation #1 involves a boomerang that goes 20 meters but might need 30 for a team relay, or goes 30 but needs 40 for extra distance points in Aussie Round. Even a Fast Catch 'rang which is shy of the 20 meter minimum distance. You need more range temporarily, and specifically. Using pennies, nickels and quarters, you can strap a weight to the bottom of your boomerang with steel tape

and pick up specific increments in yardage by moving it further towards the wingtip for more range. The weight is best added to the lifting arm as shown. Try starting with a quarter (be aggressive!) and strap it near the center of the arm. Moving it by steps towards the tip will reveal increased range and lower flight paths with each move. Experiment until you find the desired results and, "voila", you're in the running for the event. (Note: with steel tape, you don't wrap the tape completely around the arm to add weight. Rather, tear off a strip the width of the arm and placing the coin in the center of the tape, tack it to the -rang).

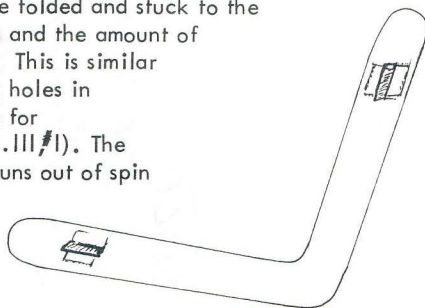
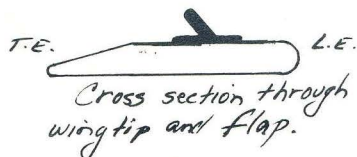
Situation #2 finds you with the right -rang and the right range, but the wind is kicking you out of contention. You need better wind resistance but not necessarily more range (a relay or fast catch. Maybe accuracy).

This time strap your weights in the center of one or both wings- mid way between elbow and wingtip.

This increased mass will help bite the breeze, but since the weight is placed so close to the center of rotation, the increase in range is minimized. Some of the guys had rows of coins strapped on for specific adjustments to the wind- and it worked. With a little practice and test flying, you'll find that 10 booms in the bag can do the work of 20..a big plus in competition.



The final tip is a hot one. I pass it on because if I don't, someone will. It involves "drag flaps" to the upper surface of the boomerang to compensate for higher winds. Particularly applicable to accuracy and Fast Catching under less than ideal conditions, small tabs of steel tape are folded and stuck to the upper wing surface of one or both arms and the amount of drag adjusted for the wind conditions. This is similar to a former Darnell concept of drilling holes in the wings to induce drag and slow spin for windy conditions ("Leading Edge" Vol.III #1). The boomerang requires a solid toss, but runs out of spin on the return for accurate comebacks.



FREE THROWERS' BOOMERANG SOCIETY
340 TROY ROAD • DELAWARE, OHIO 43015
U.S.A.



Standing, L to R: Shelley Mack, Rusty Harding, Peter Ruhf, Kathy Ruhf, Rita and Al Gerhards, David Schummy, Bob Burwell, Chet Snouffer, Carmen Foster, Dave Emler, Mike Forrester, Dan Russell.

Sitting, L to R: Larry Ruhf, Holly English Payne, Ben Ruhe, Bunny Read, Maureen Clark, Mark Schafer, Dennis Maxwell (foreground), Mark Pansing, Lynn Emler (behind Dennis), Holly Gerspacher (foreground), Jerry Caplan, Rich Harrison and Jean Harrison, inimitable Barnaby Ruhe.

The Leading Edge

NEWSLETTER of the
FREE THROWERS' BOOMERANG SOCIETY
340 TROY ROAD • DELAWARE, OHIO 43015

Dear Boomerang Enthusiast,

As a ~~former subscriber~~ to the "Leading Edge", I thought you'd be interested in the latest issue and the opportunity to ~~renew your subscription for another year~~. Though our rates remain the same, I think you'll find the amount of information enclosed makes the "Leading Edge" an even better bargain than before! National and international news, boomerang plans, games to play, and construction tips make it the most practical and informative periodical available in my estimation. All this plus wood sources, "who's who" and "what's what" columns, boomerang sources, and yes, even addresses for all of the "other guys" make the "Leading Edge" totally unique.

Best of all, the "Leading Edge" serves as YOUR newsletter, keeping others up on your activities as well as informing you of theirs. No matter where your interests in the sport, you'll find that our emphasis is always on enjoyment, whether you're tossing in the cool of the evening or the heat of competition.

If you'd like to receive another year of the "Leading Edge", simply return this form with your \$5.00 (\$10 overseas airmail) and I'll start your subscription with the next issue. Whatever you decide, best wishes in your pursuits, boomerang-wise and otherwise!

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